League Warning To British Government

(Continued)

of the demand of the Musalmans for the division of India, which was made long before the declaration, at Lahore on the 23rd of March 1940, and is popularly known as the Pakistan Scheme.

Since then, responsible Ministers of the Grown, Mr. Amery, the Secretary of the State for India, and Mr. Churchill, the Prime Minister, have, from time to time, amplified and confirmed the policy underlying the declaration, thereby assuring 100 million Musalmans of India, that the British Government was fully alive to the realities of the political situation in India and realised that any decision opposed to the natural aspirations of Musalmans as a separate entity would hasten a catastrophe and make peaceful administration impossible.

British Press

The Working Committee, however, are deeply concerned and alarmed that while the policy of the British Government still remains the same as laid down in the declaration of the 8th of August 1940, there is a growing tendency in a section of the British press and politicians, who under the stress of the war against the Axis powers and the entry of Japan in the arena, to a revision of the policy hitherto followed and to start the policy of appeasement of the Congress by making a fresh declaration, in utter disregard of the previous statements and promises to the Musalmans of India and in ignorance of the nature and extent of the political, religious and cultural differences existing between the major communities in India, viz. Hindus and Muslims.

The Working Committee, therefore, consider it necessary to warn the British public and Government that any departure from the policy and the solemn declaration of the 8th of August 1940, and the pledges given therein to the Musalmans, would constitute a gross breach of faith with Muslim India, and that any revision of policy or any fresh declaration, which adversely affects the demand of Pakistan or proceeds on the basis of a central Government with India as one single unit and Musalmans as an All-India minority, shall be strongly resented by the Muslims who will be compelled to resist it with all the forces at their command, which would at this critical juncture, among other things, necessarily result in the serious impediment of the country's war efforts, which have so far been largely carried on with the help and support of the Musalmans because of the policy and attitude hitherto adopted by the Muslim League in order not to embarrass or impede war efforts as far as possible.

Resolution No 2.

In view of the fact that the entry oi Japan in the war on the side of the Axis Powers has brought the danger much closer to India and has forced into greater prominence the question of the defence of India, the Working Committee consider it necessary to reiterate that the Muslim League from the very beginning has expressed their willingness to share the responsibility of the defence of the country, as is evident from the stand taken by the Ptesident of the All-Iddia Muslim League as far back as November 1939 when he accepted the offer of the Viceroy that the Congress and the League should come to an adjustment in the Provincial field to ensure harmonious working of the provincial government, consequent on which the representatives of the Congress and the League will be willing to participate in the Central Government as members of the Executive Council. This proposal of the Viceroy was summarily rejected by the Congress on the ground that their demand embodied in the resolution of the All-India Congress Committee, dated the 10th of October 1939, for a declaration of India's independence and the right of Indians to frame their own constitution through a Constituent Assembly elected on the basis of adult franchise, was not met by the British Government.

Further the Muslim League on the 17th of June 1940 passed the following resolution, which clearly indicates that the League has all along adhered to the policy declared by its President in November 1939:

"The Working Committee view with alarm the growing menace of Nazi aggression which has been most ruthlessly depriving one nation after another of its liberty and freedom and regard the unprovoked attack by the Italian Government against the Allies, as most unwarranted and immoral at a time when France was engaged in a brave struggle against very heavy odds.

Defence of India.

"The grave world situation demands serious efforts on the part of every Indian for the defence of his country, and the Working Committee call upon the Government of India to prepare the country in an organised manner to meet every eventuality. The Committee are constrained to state that the proposals for the defence of India, indicated in the statements of their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief as well as the statements of some of the provincial Governors are wholly inadequate to meet the urgent requirements of the situation. The Committee, therefore, authorise its President to enter into communication with Mis Excellency the Viceroy with a view to explore the possibility of devising prompt and effective measures to mobilize the country's resources for the purpose of intensifying war efforts and the defence of India.

"The Committee are of the view that unless a satisfactory basis for close co-operation is agreed upon on an All-India basis, and not province-wise, between the government and the Muslim League, such other parties as are willing to undertake the responsibility for the defence of the country in the face of the imminent danger, the real purpose and objective will not be served and achieved."

The Working Committee once more declare that they are ready and willing as before to shoulder the burden of the defence of the country, singly or in co-operation with other parties on the basis that real share and responsibility is given in the authority of the Government at the centre and the provinces within the framework of the present constitution, but without prejudice to the major political issues involved in the framing of the future constitution.

Resolution No. 3.

The Working Committee of the All-India Muslim League has noted with great satisfaction the action taken by the President in expelling Mr. Fazlul Huq from the Muslim League for his treacherous betrayal of the Muslim League organisation and the Musalmans generally.

The Committee call upon every Muslim Leaguer in the Bengal Legislature to organise the Muslim League and Muslim opinion in the Province to the fullest extent and to join and support the Muslim League Parliamentary Party and not to rest content until the present ministry, which is composed of the various element antagonistic to the cause of Muslim Bengal and of which Mr. Fazlul Huq is a more titular head, is over thrown.

The Committee appeal to every Muslim, inside and outside the Legislature to help and support the Provincial Muslim League in organising the province of Bengal.

The members of participated in the deliberations were: Mr. M.A. Jinnah (President),Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, (Hony. Secretary).

The Raja Saheb of Mahmudabad (Hony. Treasurer), Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin (Bengal), Mr. Malik Berkat Ali (Punjab), Qazi Mohammad Isa (Baluchistan), Maulana Syed Abdul Raoof Shah, (C. P. & Berar), Mr. M. A. H. Ispahani (Bengal), Haji Abdul Sattar Seth (Madras), Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhry (Assam), Chaudhry Khaliquzzaman (U. P.) and Mr. Husain Imam (Bihar).